

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20.

Please add the following claims:

21. A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

AI
Cm
a comparor configured to receive a first border gateway protocol attribute related to a first mirrored service and a second border gateway protocol attribute related to a second mirrored service, said first mirrored service and said second mirrored service in a same autonomous system, said comparor configured to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a first multi-exit discriminator (MED); and

a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the second border gateway protocol attribute is a second multi-exit discriminator.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the predetermined criteria is a smaller one of the first multi-exit discriminator (MED) and the second multi-exit discriminator (MED).

24. A system for selecting a mirrored service in a network environment, the system comprising:

AI
Cmell

a comparator configured to receive a first border gateway protocol attribute related to a first mirrored service and a second border gateway protocol attribute related to a second mirrored service, said first mirrored service and said second mirrored service in a same autonomous system, said comparator configured to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected, wherein the first border gateway protocol attribute is a community attribute; and

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a distributed director coupled with the first and second protocol agents to compare the first border gateway protocol attribute with the second border gateway protocol attribute, resulting in a selected attribute, wherein the selected attribute meets a predetermined criteria, and wherein a mirrored service associated with the selected attribute is selected.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the predetermined criteria is a predetermined community attribute.